

the United States Housing Act of 1937, de-regulate the public housing program and the program for rental housing assistance for low-income families, and increase community control over such programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Chairman, I regret that I must vote against H.R. 2406, the Housing Act of 1995. While I support the provisions which reduce burdensome regulations for public housing authorities and consolidate numerous programs, I do not support the provisions which will limit housing options for our Nation's most vulnerable residents and families.

During House debate, I spoke in favor of Representative FRANK's amendment to retain the Brooke amendment, an amendment which would have ensured that residents in public housing do not pay more than 30 percent of their limited income toward rent. Although the House was successful in retaining this important provision for our Nation's elderly and disabled, and those with incomes below 30 percent of the area median, H.R. 2406 still contains language which will effectively shut out low-income working Americans from affordable, decent housing. I have long held that we need meaningful welfare reform and that there ought to be a safety net for those Americans trying to get their feet back on the ground. Repealing the Brooke amendment will severely hurt our Nation's low-income, working residents who are struggling to afford a home, food, clothing, and medicine.

In addition to repealing the Brooke amendment, the House bill also changes regulations regarding income targeting. I commend Chairman LAZIO for his efforts on compromise language with Representative KENNEDY from Massachusetts to reserve more public and assisted housing for the very poor. I also share the goal of integrating a broader range of incomes for people in public housing, but I remain concerned that many low-income Americans will still be cut off from housing assistance while housing authorities seek to attract people with higher incomes. It is my hope that the House-Senate conference will result in an agreement to ensure that those who are in dire need of housing are able to receive assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I heard from hundreds of Rhode Islanders who expressed serious concerns about this bill and the repeal of the Brooke amendment. At a time when Americans are already coping with drastic budget cuts, it does not make sense to disadvantage working residents and families by placing affordable, decent housing out of their reach.

Mr. Speaker, everyone needs a place to live, and, as such, housing legislation should be a bipartisan effort. The Senate has taken this to heart and passed bipartisan legislation which preserves the Brooke amendment. It is my hope that the final bill will be more like the Senate version, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure safe, decent, affordable housing for all Americans.

#### HONORING THE FRANKLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 1996*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services

provided by the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee fire training school at Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

#### ADOPTION PROMOTION AND STABILITY ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 10, 1996*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Adoption Promotion and Stability Act. I commend Congresswoman MOLINARI for bringing the important issue of adoption to the floor. H.R. 3286 attempts to correct the disproportionate representation of minorities in the foster care system by preventing discrimination in the placement of children on the basis of race, color or national origin. This bill also provides adoptive parents up to \$5,000 in tax credits to assist in adoption expenses.

Mr. Speaker, the promotion of adoption is one of the most important things we can do to strengthen American families. All children, regardless of age, sex ethnicity, and physical and emotional health are entitled to a family. Adoption enables children, whose parents cannot or will not raise them, to become part of a permanent family. Furthermore, it serves as a second chance for the thousands of children who have been removed from their families because of abuse or neglect.

The high cost of adoption can be an impediment to many families wanting to adopt. With the inclusion of legal fees, court costs and charges levied by adoption agencies, the cost of an adoption can exceed \$15,000. This is a heavy burden for America's low- and middle-income families who desire to adopt. The \$5,000 adoption tax credit included in this may make the difference between a child in foster care becoming part of an adoptive family or remaining in foster care indefinitely.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to express my concern regarding the title III provision in H.R. 3286 which would overhaul the Indian Child

Welfare Act [ICWA]. I supported the Young-Miller amendment which would have eliminated title III from this bill, and am hopeful that further consideration will be given to convening hearings or meetings with the Indian community on the title III provision.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3286 represents a positive approach in finding homes for our Nation's needy children. Although the bill is not flawless, I support this effort to facilitate the adoption of children, and to decrease the time that many of our children languish in the foster care system. I join with my colleagues in support of this legislation.

#### HONORING THE FORKS RIVER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 1996*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Forks River volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

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#### KELLY BUNCH, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 1996*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, let it be known that it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Kelly Bunch, winner of the 1996 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Kelly is being honored for demonstrating